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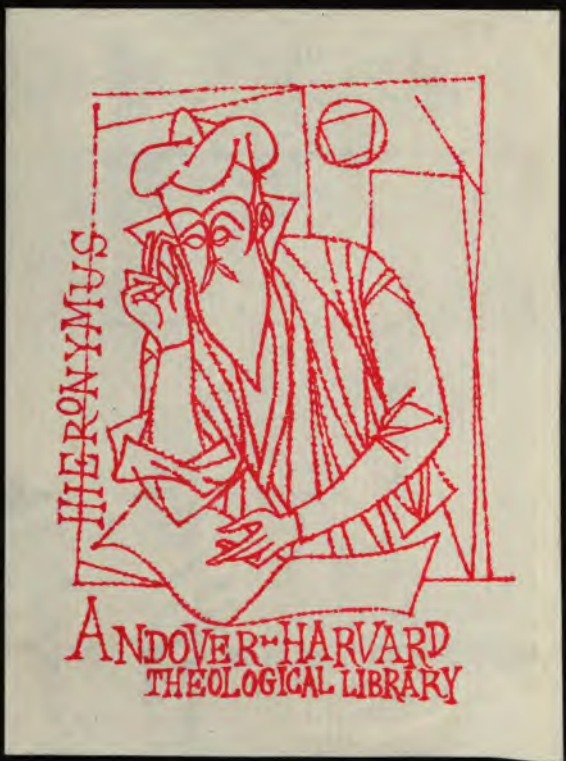
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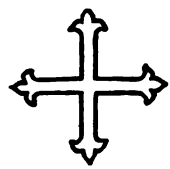

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AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION
25 Beacon Street

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RESPONSIVE READINGS

I

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all creatures cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein;

The vast array of thy creation continually doth worship thee, holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of the universe;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee;

The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee;

The noble army of martyrs praise thee;

The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee, the Father of an infinite majesty:

The everlasting Light of all that live, Spirit of grace and truth, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Lord; thou art the ever blessed God our Father.

When thou lookest upon us in our low estate, thou dost not despise our humble prayer.

Thou settest us free from the bondage of sin, and dost open the kingdom of heaven unto all the faithful.

Thou callest upon us to enter in, and to dwell with thee for ever.

We believe that thou art Judge of all the earth.

We therefore pray thee, help thy children, to whom thou hast revealed the knowledge of thy love;

May we be found faithful in the keeping of thy law.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thy heritage.

Govern them, and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify thee, and we worship thy name ever, world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have we trusted; let us never be confounded.

II

Of old, O Lord, thou didst lay the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

They shall perish, but thou wilt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment, and as a vesture wilt thou change them; but thou art the same, and thy years have no end.

Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment, and stretchest out the heavens like a curtain;

Thou makest the clouds thy chariot; the flaming fire thy minister.

Thou tellest the number of the stars, and callest them all by their names;

Thou dost measure the waters in the hollow of thy hand, and metest out the heavens with a span;

Thou comprehendest the dust of the earth in a measure;

And weighest the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.

Behold, thou takest up the isles as a very little thing, and rulest the raging of the sea;

When the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; as for the world, and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Wherefore let us lift up our eyes on high, and behold him who hath created all these things.

For the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, who wast, and art, and evermore shalt be!

Unto thee do we ascribe glory and honor and power;

Yea, unto thee, O Lord, do we render praise for ever and ever.

III

Great is the Lord, who hath created the multitude of the heavenly hosts, and spread out the clear firmament with its cheerful array of shining stars;

Who hath set the sun in the expanse of the sky to serve him as a marvelous instrument, and as a sign which shall not be removed;

And hath made the moon, a lesser light, to enlighten the night season, and as an ornament to gladden the lowly places of the earth.

At the commandment of the Lord they appeared in their order, and because his right hand sustaineth them they have never fainted in their course.

Yea, the heavens are his, the earth also is his; as for the world and the fullness thereof, he hath founded them;

The north and the south he hath created them; the day is his, the night also is his; for he hath prepared the light and the sun.

By his strength the Lord hath divided the seas; and by his might hath he set all the borders of the earth;

Yea, he hath made summer and winter, and heat and cold, and springtime and harvest, and plenty and also drought.

Behold, the hands of the Lord have compassed the heavens about with the circle of the rainbow:

Very beautiful is the brightness thereof; and the hands of the Most High have bended it.

At his command the heavy clouds gather above the earth; yea, they fly across the heavens;

And at the word of the Lord the swift lightnings cleave the firmament, and open the storehouses of his abundant waters for the refreshment of the earth.

Before the power of the Lord the mountains are shaken, and the forests stand in awe and tremble;

And at his command the flood-gates of the heavens are opened and the fruitful rain descendeth in plentiful showers;

It falleth among the hills and causeth the waterbrooks to burst forth with gladness;

It envelopeth the plains as with a curtain, and maketh pools of all the low places.

Then is the earth filled with fatness, and the fields rejoice with the promise of abundance;

The heart of man is gladdened, and the beasts quench their thirst, and are satisfied:

For the Lord openeth his hands with compassion, and poureth out his blessings without measure.

Who is strong like unto the Lord, whose faithfulness is round about him?

By much watering he wearieth the clouds, and his hand sealeth up the storehouses on high, and stayeth the rain in due season;

Yea, he rolleth back the curtains of the firmament, and spreadeth his light over the face of the earth;

Whereupon man goeth forth with hope unto his labors.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all.

By the will of the Lord the snow falleth like feathers, and covereth all the earth with whiteness;

Out of the chambers of the Lord issue the tempest and the whirlwind, and his hand ruleth them;

By the breath of the Lord cometh the frost, which bindeth the waters as with a breastplate;

His hand also awakeneth the south wind, and with the warmth thereof he releaseth them again from the power of the cold;

So too he dispelleth the hoarfrost and the abundance of the snow, and he calleth forth the springtime in its season;

By his might he causeth the seed to sprout and the grass to grow, and he filleth the summer with rejoicing, and the autumn with increase.

How shall we magnify the Lord for the marvelous works which he hath wrought?

He is great above all the things which he hath created:

When we glorify the Lord with all our might, he will yet far exceed our praise;

And when we exalt him with all our strength, we can not reach unto the splendor of his majesty, nor unto the glory of his power:

Yet will we praise the Lord with our whole heart, and all that is within us shall bless his holy name:

For his goodness hath he openly displayed, and all the ends of the earth hath beheld the glory of the Lord.

IV

Blessed be thou, O Lord God of ages, who makest thyself known unto them that earnestly seek thee.

Thy voice from the morning of the world was heard from afar; in the evening thou speakest at the door, and enterest in to abide with us.

Manifold are thy witnesses, O God, and the tokens of thy redeeming presence;

Else had we not known thee.

For how should frail man that is of the dust stretch his wisdom unto thee, if thou didst not reveal thyself unto the lowly in heart?

In truth, O Lord, thou unsealest the light for all that live, and lookest forth from the silent deeps of the firmament;

Yea, thou causest the dawn to know its place, and sayest to the sea, "Here shall thy proud waves be stayed;"

Thou seest the end even from the beginning, and weavest the ages as a work upon a loom.

Although thou goest by us when we see thee not and passest near us when we do not perceive thee,

Yet by thy power thou sustainest us from day to day, and because thou upholdest us we abide in peace throughout the night-watches, O Eternal.

Hadst thou not remembered our low estate, and bent to us with thy testimonies from of old,

We had been in darkness and the shadow of death, and the light of thy countenance had been hid;

But, behold, O God, thou hast not left thyself without witness among all the nations of the earth;

Yea, thy revelations are new every morning, and at even thou enlightenest thy children with peaceful thoughts of thee;

For the dayspring declareth thy glory in the morning, and nightly the firmament proclaimeth thy majesty.

Wherefore blessed be the course of thine eternal light, which shineth in the hearts of thy children more and more unto the coming of the perfect day.

V

O Lord, thou hast searched us and known us;

Thou knowest our downsitting and our uprising; thou understandest our thought afar off.

Thou searchest out our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways;

For there is not a word in our tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether!

Thou hast beset us behind and before, and laid thy hand upon us.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is high, we can not attain unto it.

Whither shall we go from thy spirit, or whither shall we flee from thy presence?

If we ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if we make our bed in the grave, behold, thou art there;

If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead us, and thy right hand shall hold us;

If we say, Surely the darkness shall cover us, and the light about us shall be night;

Even the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day.

The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Howbeit, thou dost not will that we should tremble before thee, O Lord, nor seek to flee from thy presence in shame and fear:

For thou, O God, art our Father, and the fountain of all good, and thy laws also are gracious unto such as own their sway;

Such as turn from evil, and follow after righteousness thou wilt lead through the path of obedience into the highway of blessedness.

Wherefore let us acquaint ourselves with God, and be at peace.

Then will we delight ourselves in the Almighty, and the Most High shall be our safeguard and defense:

Then shall light shine upon all our ways, and peace shall dwell in our hearts for ever and ever.

VI

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:

For the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is spirit;

And they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Behold, God, who made the world and all things therein, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Neither is he worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed anything,

Seeing he giveth to all life and breath and all things, and hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,

And hath determined the times before appointed and the bounds of our habitation,

That we might seek him, and feel after him, and find him, though he is not far from every one of us.

For in him we live and move and have our being.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men;

And he will dwell with us and we shall be his people.

For the eyes of the Lord are upon all them that love him;

He is our mighty protection and strong support, a defense from the heat, and a shelter from the sun at noon, a preservation from stumbling and a help from falling.

He raiseth up the soul and enlighteneth the eyes.

Therefore let us return unto the Lord and walk in his sight.

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with good.

VII

Lo, at length the true light, light for every man that is born into the world;

Kindling the face of them that receive it, until they become the sons of God.

Cease, blinding glories of the heavens, which none can see and live!

Cease, gross darkness of the earth, where the righteous put forth their hands and fear!

The veil between us is taken away, and the mingling dayspring cometh;

No longer is the dwelling of the eternal life too bright above, and the perishable world too dark below.

Jesus of Nazareth hath dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we, being made perfect through suffering, even as he was, are fashioned after his likeness.

Wherefore we are no more strangers and exiles, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, one family, one living communion of seen and unseen.

O Lord, God almighty, we had said of thee, Thy thoughts are not as our thoughts!

But thou hast looked upon us as with the pity of a father, and hast raised us up to think thy thoughts with thee.

We had said, Our righteousness reacheth not unto thee, nor to the holy ones who stand before thy presence!

But now know we that we are the sons of God, and although it doth not yet appear what we shall be, we know that we shall be like unto him.

We had said, Thou layest man fast in everlasting sleep! Yet lo, we do but sleep unto everlasting waking.

Blessed be the Lord our God who giveth us beauty for ashes, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

VIII

This is the message which we have heard from of old, and announce unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

He is the true light, even the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

And every good gift and every perfect boon is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights;

And he revealeth the deep and secret things, and knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

No longer shall darkness cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples;

For the Lord hath risen upon us, and his glory shall be seen upon us.

With him is the fountain of light, and in his light shall we see light.

The sun shall be no more our light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto us; for the Lord shall be unto us an everlasting light, and our God our glory.

Our sun shall no more go down, neither shall our moon withdraw itself; for the Lord

shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

Behold, we that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and we that dwelt in the shadow of death, on us hath the light shined.

For the Lord hath delivered our souls from death, our feet from falling, that we might walk before him in the light of life.

Wherefore let us arise, and shine; for our light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon us.

For unto the upright there ariseth light in darkness.

Yea, light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Blessed is the man that walketh in the light of God's countenance.

He shall be like the light of the morning when the sun riseth, a morning without clouds; when the tender grass springeth out of the earth through clear shining after rain.

The path of the righteous is as a shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day;

But the way of the wicked is as darkness; he knoweth not at what he stumbleth.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, lest his works should be reproved;

But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest that they are wrought in God.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion for stumbling in him;

But he that hateth his brother is in the darkness, and walketh in the darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Howbeit, if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

For the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shineth.

Therefore let us walk in the light, that darkness overtake us not; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

And while we have light, let us believe in the light, that we may become children of light;

Giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;

That we may show forth the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

IX

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God above all else, above every possession and creation, animate and inanimate, visible and invisible: he is the Lord of thy life, and him only shalt thou love and worship.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

For none of us liveth unto himself, and none of us dieth unto himself.

Thou shalt hold in reverence the name of the Lord thy God.

For the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein.

Thou shalt keep thy days holy unto the Lord thy God.

For the Lord calleth us with a holy calling, according to his own purpose and grace.

Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother.

For they have borne the heat and burden of the day, and by their labor have we profited.

Thou shalt have regard for every living creature:

For all life is of God.

Thou shalt keep thyself pure in heart.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Thou shalt be just toward all thy neighbors, and give to every man his due.

For we are members one of another.

Thou shalt speak only the truth concerning thy neighbors, — the truth tempered with love.

Love suffereth long, and is kind.

Thou shalt so rejoice in the possessions of thy neighbors that thou mayest not covet their goods.

For love envieth not.

Thou shalt be considerate of strangers, and comfort them in their loneliness.

For our fathers before us were strangers in the land.

Thou shalt have compassion on the afflicted.

For we ought to comfort those who are in trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Thou shalt seek reconciliation with those from whom thou art estranged.

For God hath given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Thou shalt be patient with the ignorant and the slow of understanding.

For they that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak.

Thou shalt work together with thy brethren to establish justice in the earth.

Whatsoever we would that men should do unto us, let us do even so unto them.

Thou shalt have regard to thy body, to make and keep it hale and strong.

For the temple of God is holy, which temple we are.

Thou shalt store thy mind with the knowledge of things of use and beauty, and fill thy heart with spiritual wisdom.

Yea, we will make our life a continual prayer of faith unto the Lord our God.

X

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and a good understanding have all they that do his commandments.

The kingdom of God is not food and drink; but righteousness and peace and joy.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Wisdom is more precious than rubies; and all the things that we can desire are not to be compared unto her:

Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor; her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is the tree of life to them that lay hold on her; and happy is every one that retaineth her.

If we cry after knowledge, and lift up our voice after understanding; if we seek for wisdom as for silver, and search for her as for hidden treasure,

Then shall we understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of our God.

For wisdom is glorious and never fadeth away; she is easily seen of them that love her, and found of them that seek her;

She goeth about seeking such as are worthy of her, and meeteth them at every turning.

Now the beginning of wisdom is the desire of discipline; and the care of discipline is love;

And love is the keeping of her laws; and the giving heed to her laws is the assurance of incorruption,

And incorruption maketh us like unto God;

Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth a kingdom.

She is a treasure unto men that never faileth, which they that use become the friends of God.

For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure influence from the Almighty;

She is the brightness of the everlasting light; the unspotted mirror of the power of God, and the image of his goodness;

And in all ages entering into holy souls maketh them friends of God and prophets.

Therefore let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

XI

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Hath not God chosen them that are poor in spirit to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him?

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

For God will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and will make them to rejoice from their sorrow.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

The meek will he guide in judgment, the meek will he teach his way.

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

For the Lord is righteous; he loveth righteousness, and the upright shall behold his face.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

For the Lord is good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon him.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

He that hath clean hands and a pure heart shall behold the face of the Lord, and shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Wherefore let us depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Henceforth there is laid up for them the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the upright Judge, shall give.

Blessed are they that endure temptation;

For when they are tried they shall receive the crown of life.

Blessed are they that consider the poor.

They that have mercy upon the needy honor God.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

For the righteous shall live by faith.

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven; for God will show them the path of life;

Yea, in his presence is fullness of joy, and at his right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

XII

We praise thee in thy mighty power, O God; we praise thee in thy sanctuary.

We praise thee, who reignest in the furthest heavens; we praise thee, who dwellest within our hearts, O Lord, thou hidden Comforter.

No voice can duly proclaim thy greatness; no heart can comprehend thy goodness;

The longings of our spirits are inexhaustible, and only thou canst fill our hearts.

When they are empty and are aching for thee, and we hunger and thirst for thy righteousness,

Thou visitest us with peace unspeakable, and bestowest upon us the balm of thy gracious counsel.

With thee there is no misery for the distressed; but sorrow is hallowed, and pain is sweetened;

And hardship is assuaged, and fear is calmed; for thine own nature is blessedness, and thou makest thy worshipers blessed.

Yea, blessed is it to be in thy presence, O Lord most holy! In thoughts of thee do we find our strength and our comfort.

Yea, blessed is it to dwell with thee, and to know thee, to rest in thee, and to serve thee;

And blessed shall the nations be when thy name shall be honored, and thy will obeyed;

And happy shall the peoples be when they shall exalt thee above every blessing which thou hast bestowed upon them;

Yea, blessed shall be the whole earth when all thy faithful ones shall join themselves together for the relief of the afflicted, the maintenance of justice, and the establishment of peace.

Wherefore we pray thee, O Lord, so to strengthen us day by day that we may be thine in deed, as we are thine in right;

That we may obey cheerfully, and strive loyally,

Suffer meekly, and enjoy thankfully;

So shall we serve thee while we live, and so shall we partake of thy joy, and triumph over every sorrow, and fulfil thy work;

And so shall we be numbered with thy saints, and die in the joyful contemplation of thee, and awake and for evermore abide in thy likeness.

XIII

We were glad when our companions said unto us, "Come, it is our holy day; let us go into the house of the Lord;

"Let us take sweet counsel together; let our feet stand within his gates, and heart and voice give thanks unto him."

Blessed be the temple that is hallowed by the spirit of God.

We pray for peace within its walls.

Peace be to old and young that enter here. Peace be to every one who abideth herein.

For the sake of our friends and brethren we will never cease to say, Peace be within thee.

What though for him who filleth heaven and earth there can be no dwelling made with hands!

And what though his way is deep and his knowledge too wonderful for us, and before him we are as children that can not speak!

Yet, touched by the altar's living glow, we learn as infants to lisp his name;

And we try the wings that beat for his refuge, and we flee as a bird unto the mountain.

O Lord, when we cry unto thee from the deep, and wait for thee as they that wait for the morning,

Thou wilt have regard unto our entreaty; yea, the sight of the lowly thou wilt not despise.

Not long, O Lord, shall we feel after thee in these courts below; not long wilt thou hear these faltering lips.

Our fathers hast thou called unto a higher estate, and gathered to their fathers must all the children be.

Wherefore let the dead and the living praise thee, O Lord, above and below;

Let all the generations praise thee.

Let the glorified company of the first-born, whose names are in the book of life, and the powers in the height, praise thee, who dwellest in the heavens.

Let thy church on earth praise thee, the delight of whose wisdom is in the children of men.

O house of the Lord's praise, peace be with them that love thee!

If we ever forget thee, O Lord, then shall we suffer grievous loss; but henceforth be it our prayer and our ceaseless endeavor to remember thee, and to worship thee even for evermore.

XIV

Be thou merciful unto us, O God, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us.

Oh, send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us; let them bring us unto thy holy presence and thy power.

As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so do our souls pant after thee, O God;

Yea, our souls thirst for thee, O Lord.

Our minds and our hearts cry out for thy presence, O God;

Yea, we would think on thy lovingkindness in the midst of thy temple.

Our souls wait for thee, O God, more than they that watch for the morning;

We will seek thee, O Lord, with all our strength, and we shall surely find thee.

For thou art not far from any one of us; yea, in thee we live and move and have our being;

And thou art abundant in mercy and full of compassion, and ever harkenest unto the cry of thy children.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is thy goodness toward them that fear thee;

As thy majesty is, so is thy mercy.

Therefore do we love thee, O Lord, and day by day will we lift up our voices unto thee;

And day by day will we pour out our hearts before thee because of the multitude of thy blessings.

"And it shall come to pass," saith the Lord, "when ye are multiplied and increased in the land,

"That the people shall no more say, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord;'

"Neither shall it come to mind; neither shall they remember it; neither shall they miss it; neither shall it be any more.

"For in that day a man shall not look to the altars, the work of man's hands, neither shall he respect that which his fingers have fashioned.

"But in that day a man shall look to his Maker, and the Lord alone shall be exalted.

"And all the nations shall bless themselves in him, and he shall be their glory, even for evermore."

XV

Let us not say, It was through the Lord that we fell away; for we ought not to do the thing that he hateth.

Rather let us acknowledge that we have sinned before the Lord our God, and done that which was evil in his sight; and that we have gone astray like lost sheep, and have need to be recalled unto him.

O seek thy servants, Lord, lest we forget thy commandments.

How shall we appear before thee, O God, and with what offering shall we come?

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Wherefore we sorrowfully confess our sin unto thee, O God, and our iniquity we do not disown.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.

Wash us from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin.

Make thy face to shine upon thy servants, and save us for thy mercy's sake.

Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy spirit from us; but bestow upon us, we pray thee, the knowledge of thy forgiveness.

Then will we forsake the way of evil, and turn from all unrighteousness.

Thus saith the High and Holy One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: "I will dwell in the high and holy place, and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit,

"To revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Therefore let us go our way and ask mercy of the Lord. Let us seek our Shepherd that he may lead us.

For the Lord doth not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquity.

The mercy of man is toward his neighbor,

But the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh.

It is meet that we be reconciled unto our brethren, and unto our neighbors, else we can not be acceptable with God;

For God forgiveth us our trespasses in like manner as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Wherefore let us set our hearts right in the eyes of the Most Holy;

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

XVI

Now what doth the Lord require of us, but to fear the Lord our God, and to walk in all his ways, and to love and to serve the Lord our God with all our hearts, and with all our souls?

And it shall come to pass that if we walk in his statutes, and keep his commandments to do them, that the Lord will give peace in our land; and we shall lie down, and none shall make us afraid.

Therefore let us walk in the paths of the good, and observe the ways of the righteous;

Then shall we lift up our countenances without spot; yea, we shall be steadfast and without fear.

Thus saith the Lord: "When ye come to appear before me, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes;

"Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice; relieve the oppressed;

"Administer justice to the fatherless; plead for the widow: for these are things in which I delight.

"Is not this the day that I have chosen, to loose the bands of wickedness;

"To undo the heavy burdens; to let the oppressed go free;

"To break every grievous yoke; to deal bread unto the hungry;

"To gather in the poor that are cast out; to cover the naked against the cold;

"And to deal bountifully with all that are in need?"

Let us harken now unto the word of the Lord, and have regard unto his holy laws;

Then shall our light break forth as the morning, and our healing spring forth speedily;

And our righteousness shall go before us, and the glory of the Lord shall follow after us;

And when we call, the Lord will answer us.

Then shall a voice be heard, saying, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world; for I was ahungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye received me; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, "Lord, when saw we thee ahungered,

and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? and when saw we thee a stranger, and received thee? or naked, and clothed thee? and when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

And the voice shall answer, and say unto them, "Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.

"Enter ye into life everlasting."

XVII

Thus saith the Lord: "These words which I command you, ye shall lay up in your hearts and in your souls;

"And ye shall bind them for a sign upon your hands; and they shall be the frontlets between your eyes;

"And ye shall write them for the door-posts of your houses, and upon your gates;

"And ye shall teach them diligently to your children, talking of them when ye sit down in your houses, and when ye walk by the way;

"And when ye lie down, and when ye rise up;

"That your days and the days of your children, may be even as the days of heaven and earth."

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

For righteousness runneth down from heaven, and truth springeth from the ground.

Above all things truth beareth away the victory. All the world calleth upon her, and the heavens bless her;

For with her there is no unrighteousness; and with her there is no acceptance of persons or rewards.

But she doeth the things that are just, and refraineth from all unrighteous and wicked things; and all men do like well of her works;

Neither is there any unrighteousness in her judgment. She is the strength and the power and the majesty of all the ages.

Teach us thy way, O Lord, and we will walk in thy truth;

For thou, Lord, art abundant in goodness and truth;

Thou art a God of truth, and without evil,

Who rewardest them that walk uprightly and work righteousness, and who speak the truth in their hearts.

For, behold, thou desirest truth in the heart, and makest us to know wisdom within.

Therefore have we chosen the way of truth, and laid up thy judgments in our hearts.

A tongue of truth thou wilt establish for ever;

But a lying tongue thou wilt utterly destroy.

To this end were we born, and to this end came we into the world: that we should bear witness unto the truth.

We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free.

Wherefore sanctify us, O Lord, through the truth: thy word is truth.

Every one that is of the truth heareth thy voice; and unto such as diligently seek the truth thou makest thyself known.

XVIII

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the assurance of things unseen.

By faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the word of God; so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto God;

For he that cometh unto God must believe that God is, and that he hath regard unto them that seek him.

By faith, Abraham, when he was called, went forth, not knowing whither he went; and he became a sojourner in the land of promise.

By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden by his parents, and they were not afraid of the king's command;

By faith he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be evil treated with his people;

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

The time would fail to tell of those who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises,

Overcame the fear of lions, endured the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong.

Yet if a man have faith, and have not works, what can that man's faith avail?

We believe that faith apart from works is dead.

Yea, and for this reason showing on our part all diligence: in our faith supplying virtue; and in our virtue, knowledge; and in our knowledge, self-control; and in our self-control, steadfastness; and in our steadfastness, godliness; and in our godliness, brotherly kindness; and in our brotherly kindness, love.

For if these things are ours and abound, we become fruitful and active through the knowledge of Christ.

Moreover, a believing love lighteneth the burden of our care;

And we believe in him who, though invisible, holdeth the reins of the world in his hands.

We can not by searching comprehend him, yet if we are obedient unto his will, the powers of evil can not prevail against us;

For there is neither wisdom, nor counsel, nor understanding which availeth against the Eternal; and if we have faith, the power of the Eternal is with us for evermore . . . against the power of the Eternal; and if we have faith the power . . .

XIX

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

And we, with unveiled face, reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,

Are transformed into the same image from glory unto glory,

That we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our life.

We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free.

If we be free with the freedom which was in Christ, we shall be free indeed.

But before faith came we were kept in ward under the law of the commandments and ordinances, shut up from the faith which afterward should be revealed;

So that the commandments and ordinances brought us into the freedom which was in Christ;

But now that faith hath come, we are no longer under a tutor; but we are sons of God through faith; and if sons, then are we free.

Let us stand fast therefore in the freedom which was in Christ, not being entangled again in any yoke of bondage.

For we were called unto freedom, albeit we may not use our freedom for an occasion to the flesh.

So then we are not under the commandments and ordinances, but under grace; for Christ hath brought us freedom from the fear of the commandments and ordinances;

That we should serve, not in the oldness of the letter, but in the newness of the spirit.

Let us take heed, however, lest this freedom of ours become a stumblingblock unto the weak; for all things are lawful for us, but not all things are profitable.

All things are indeed lawful for us, but we will not be brought under the power of any.

Moreover, although we are free, we bring ourselves under bondage, that we may become more effective; yea, through love we are become servants one to another.

For it seemed good to our Father in heaven to lay upon us no greater burden than the necessary things;

Let us therefore lay aside every other encumbrance, and the sin which doth so easily beset us;

And let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and to set our feet in the way of everlasting life.

XX

Whatsoever things were spoken aforetime were written for our learning, that through faith and through comfort of the scriptures, we might have our hope set on the Lord our God;

Who taketh pleasure in them that fear him, even in those that hope in his mercy;

For he is a hiding-place and a shelter of safety unto such as put their trust in him,

And a strong hold and a defense unto all those who walk uprightly.

Behold, happy is the man that trusteth in God, and whose hope the Lord is!

For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out its roots by the river;

And shall not fear when heat cometh, and its leaf shall be green;

And shall not be anxious in the time of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Yea, gladness shall be the fruit of the hope of the righteous;

For the Lord is gracious unto them that wait for him, and unto such as hopefully seek after him.

Therefore it is good that men should hope and quietly wait for the manifestation of the Lord, who putteth not to shame, neither tarrieth when the needy call upon him out of the midst of their distress.

Yea, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.

Wherefore let him that hath set his hope on God remember the works of the Lord, and keep his commandments;

Yea, let him be sober and set his hope perfectly on the grace of God, showing diligence unto the fullness of hope even unto the end, and putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation;

Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God, through whom we are heirs of eternal life according to hope; which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,

Inasmuch as our faith and hope are in God, who alone hath all power, and the circuit of whose majesty reacheth unto the ends of the world.

Blessed be God our Father, who according to his great mercy hath begotten in us a

lively hope unto an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away,

Which is reserved in heaven for those who by the power of God are kept through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!

XXI

If we speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, we are become as sounding brass and a clanging cymbal;

And if we have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and if we have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, we are nothing.

And if we bestow all our goods to feed the poor, and if we give our bodies to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth us nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not;

Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own; is not provoked, taketh not account of evil;

Love rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth;

Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth.

Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Therefore let love be without dissimulation.

This indeed is the commandment of the Lord, that we love one another.

And all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Yea, greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Let us therefore be kindly affectioned one toward another with brotherly love, each in honor setting the other before himself.

Knowing that love is the fulfilment of the law, and that perfect love casteth out all fear.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God.

If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another; and if we love one another, God dwelleth in us; for God is love.

He then that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.

We love, because God first loved us.

XXII

When we consider, O Lord, the days of old, and the years of ancient times, and call to mind the great and wide expanse wherein thou hast for ever exercised dominion, and when we ponder the multitude of thy marvelous works,

Our hearts melt within us, and we cry, What is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou visitest him!

For behold, O Lord, we are but of yesterday, and we know nothing, because our days upon the earth are as a shadow.

We can not comprehend where man was when thou didst lay the foundations of the earth,

Neither can we understand how thou didst determine the measures thereof, or didst stretch the line upon them;

Nor whereupon thou didst fasten the foundations thereof; nor when thou didst lay the corner-stone thereof in the beginning.

We can not bind the clusters of the Pleiades, nor loose the bands of Orion;

Neither can we bring forth the lightnings, nor sweep back the clouds from the face of the heavens.

These things are too wonderful for us. They are high; we can not attain unto them.

Yea, our strength reacheth not unto these heights, neither doth our thought comprehend such marvelous things;

For although thou hast crowned us with glory and honor, O Lord, and made us to have dominion over the work of thy hands,

Yet we know not whence we came, nor whither we go;

Wherefore it behooveth us not to glory in ourselves, for we are nothing;

But to walk in humility before thee all the days of our life.

Moreover, thou dost distribute unto each in due proportion, according to thy holy purposes;

And thou only hast made us to differ one from another; yea, all that we have is from thee.

Accordingly, it was said of old, "Whosoever will be great among men, let him be their servant, and whosoever shall humble himself as a little child, the same shall be great in the kingdom of heaven;"

And furthermore, "If any man think himself to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise; for the wisdom of man is foolishness with God."

Deliver us therefore, O Lord, we pray thee, from all pride and vain-glory, that we may not think overmuch of ourselves, neither be wise in our own conceits;

But may all walk together in lowliness of mind, as members one of another: prompt to serve, slow to take offense, and always ready to harken unto the voice of thy counsel.

XXIII

We need to beware lest the heart of any among us turn away from the Lord our God, and he say within himself, I shall have peace, although I walk in evil.

For if we do not harken unto the voice of the Lord our God, to keep his commandments, we shall find no ease, neither rest;

But we shall have a trembling of heart, and a pining of soul; and our life will hang in doubt before us; and we shall fear night and day; and shall have no assurance of our life.

In the morning we shall say, Would it were evening! and in the evening we shall say, Would it were morning! because of the fear of our hearts.

But if we cleave unto the statutes of the Lord our God, and keep his covenant, then will the Lord our God open unto us his good treasure, and make us plenteous in every good work, and fill us with joy for good.

For the commandments of God are not too hard for us, neither are they afar off; but the word of the Lord is nigh unto us, in our mouths, and in our hearts, that we may keep it.

Lo, God doth set before us this day life and good, and death and evil, in that he commandeth us this day to love him, and to walk in his ways.

He doth set before us life and death; wherefore let us choose life, that we may live, we and our children;

For it is life to love the Lord our God, and to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him;

Yea, the Lord our God proveth us, to know if we love him with all our hearts and with all our souls.

Come, let us walk after the Lord our God, and love him, and keep his commandments, and faithfully serve him day by day;

For behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken is better than richness of offerings.

Moreover, let us take heed to ourselves, when we have eaten and are satisfied, and have built goodly houses, and dwelt therein, and are multiplied, lest our hearts be exalted above measure, and we forget the commandment of the Lord our God.

Therefore let us be steadfast in obedience unto the Lord our God, learning and observing all things whatsoever he hath commanded us.

And if any man lack knowledge of the way of life, him will God instruct.

Yea, if any man willeth to do the will of the Lord our God, he shall know of every teaching, whether it be of God or of men, that he may understand the rule whereby he ought to walk.

XXIV

Behold, happy is the man whom the Lord chasteneth; therefore let us not despise the chastening of the Almighty;

For even whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and disciplineth every son whom he receiveth.

Indeed, all chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous, but grievous;

But afterward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, even the fruit of righteousness.

Yea, God is faithful, and he doth not suffer us to be tried above that we are able;

But he will with the trial make also the way of escape, that we may be able to endure.

For he maketh sore, and he bindeth up; he woundeth, and his hands make whole;

And it is of the Lord's lovingkindness that we are not cast down, because his compassions fail not;

They are new every morning, and as a mantle they shelter us at eventide; for the

Lord is good unto them that wait for him, even unto such as patiently seek him.

Therefore it behooveth us to hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord;

For, although he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the multitude of his lovingkindness;

For he doth not wantonly afflict, nor needlessly grieve the children of men.

Wherefore, although we are born to trouble as the sparks fly upward, we will yet seek after thee, O Lord our God and Father;

Yea, although thou slay us, yet will we trust in thee, and wait on thee continually;

For surely, O Lord, if we set our hearts aright, and cast out unrighteousness from our doors,

Thou wilt lift us up without spot, and wilt remove from us all fear;

And we shall forget the troubles which have rolled over us, and remember them only as waters that have passed away;

Although there be darkness, it shall be as the morning, and we shall abide in security, because thou givest us hope.

Moreover, shall we receive only that which seemeth good from the hand of the Lord,

and shall we not receive that which seemeth to be evil?

For the Lord dealeth with us as with sons. Shall we not therefore be in subjection unto the Father of our spirits?

Yea, the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

And all things work together for good to them that love God.

XXV

Thus saith the Lord, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might; let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this:

"That he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord, who exerciseth loving-kindness and judgment and righteousness throughout the earth."

They that put their trust in thee, O Lord, shall understand the truth; and such as are faithful shall abide in thee.

Wherefore will we wait on thee, and be of good courage, and thou wilt strengthen our hearts.

Then wilt thou make us to mount up as eagles, to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint.

Because thou art our light and our salvation, we will not fear; because thou art the strength of our life, we will not be afraid.

For in the time of trouble thou wilt shelter us by thy presence;

And in the time of temptation thou wilt uphold us by thy power.

Therefore do we trust in thee, O Lord our God, for thou wilt never suffer us to be put to confusion.

Thou holdest our souls in life, and thou inclinest our feet in the way of righteousness.

Thou art our hope, O God; thou art our refuge, even from our youth.

Thou art to us a sun and shield, and with thee we rest in safety.

No good thing wilt thou withhold from them that walk uprightly;

Thou wilt feed thy flock like a shepherd; thou wilt gather the lambs in thine arms, and carry them in thy bosom.

Behold, thou that keepest thy people wilt neither slumber nor sleep.

Therefore will we lay us down in peace and take our rest.

We will cast our burden on thee, O Lord; for thou wilt sustain us;

We will leave our care with thee; for thou carest for us.

For thou, Lord, art our Shepherd; and we shall not want.

Thou makest us to lie down in green pastures;

Thou leadest us beside the still waters.

Thou restorest our souls; thou leadest us in the paths of righteousness.

Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil;

For thou art with us; thy rod and thy staff they comfort us;

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life;

And we will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

XXVI

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and he hath long patience with it, until he shall receive the seasonable rains;

In like manner, let us also, in whatsoever we undertake, be patient and establish our hearts, for the Lord is near at hand.

For we have need of patience, that, after we shall have done the will of God, we may receive the promise.

Yea, it is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the manifestation of the Lord.

Now we have heard of the patience of the men of old, patriarchs, prophets, martyrs, apostles of the faith, the leaders of men, who, beholding the vision of the Lord afar off, steadfastly hoped for its coming, which they could not live to see;

Yea, we have seen the design of the Lord: the Lord is very faithful and of tender mercy.

Wherefore seeing that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Yea, in all things let patience have its perfect work, that we may be perfect and entire, wanting in nothing.

Come, let us rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him;

Nor fret ourselves because of him who prospereth in an evil way.

What glory is it, if, when we are buffeted for our faults, we take it patiently?

But if, when we do well, and suffer for it, we take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Let us wait then upon the Lord, and be of good courage, and he will strengthen our hearts;

For the Lord our God is faithful, and he ever harkeneth unto the cry of his children.

In all things, therefore, let us approve ourselves as the servants of God,

In much patience, in affliction, in necessities, in distresses,

In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings;

By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness,

By the holy spirit, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God,

By the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left;

By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report;

As unknown and yet well known, as dying, and behold, we live;

As chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;

As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things;

Strengthened with all might, according to the glorious power of our God,

Unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness for ever and ever.

XXVII

Let us endure hardship like good soldiers.

Now no soldier on service entangleth himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier.

Or know we not that they who run in a race all run, and one only receiveth the prize?

Yet every one that striveth for mastery in the games exerciseth self-control in all things.

Wherefore let us gird up the loins of our minds, and be sober and hope;

Let us be sober and vigilant and steadfast in the faith, that we may be perfect, strengthened, established and settled.

For he that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is thrown down and without walls.

But he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Let our eyes look straight on, yea, let them look straight before us;

And let us not turn to the right hand, nor to the left: let us remove our feet from evil.

Let us not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

He that soweth to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.

Now the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control;

And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Moreover, the Lord knoweth how to deliver the righteous from all temptation,

So that none shall be able to harm them that follow after goodness.

Yea, the path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

The stars in their courses uphold the righteous, and the stones of the field are in league with him.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things;

And the Lord of the whole earth shall be his God, and he shall live for ever in the light of the knowledge of the love of the everlasting Father.

XXVIII

Better a little, with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure, and trouble therewith.

Better a dinner of herbs where love is, than the stalled ox, and hatred therewith.

Better a little with righteousness, than great revenues without it.

Better a dry morsel and quietness therewith, than a house full of good cheer with strife.

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that possesseth great riches gained by evil devices.

Wherefore let us not be anxious to become rich, lest we set our eyes on that which is naught;

For riches certainly do make unto themselves wings, and they fly away as an eagle.

Therefore let us not fret ourselves because of evil men, nor be envious of the wicked.

A faithful soul shall abound in many blessings;

But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Therefore was it taught of old that we should not be anxious for our life, what we should eat, or what we should drink;

Nor yet for our bodies, what we should put on; for the life is more than the meat, and the body is more than the raiment.

The fowls of the air sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns;

Yet our heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not we of much more value than they?

Let us consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; yet even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore if God so clothe the flowers of the field, which to-day are, and to-morrow are cut down and wither, will he not much more clothe us?

Wherefore let us not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat, or What shall we drink, or Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

For our heavenly Father knoweth that we have need of all these things.

Therefore let us seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto us;

And let us not be anxious for the morrow, for the morrow will be anxious for the things of itself.

We have need to learn in whatsoever state we are therein to be content;

To know how to be abased, and how to abound;

In everything and in all things to learn the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in want.

We can do all things through God who giveth us the strength which was in Christ.

For the grace of God is sufficient for us; yea, his strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Let us therefore be content with such things as we have; for our God, the Giver of all good, will never leave us, nor forsake us.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is our Helper; we will not fear.

And the Lord our God shall supply every need of ours according to the riches of his bounty.

XXIX

Now it came to pass, as Jesus was going to Jerusalem, that he sent messengers before his face; and they entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him;

But the Samaritans would not receive him; for the Jews and the Samaritans had no dealing with one another.

And when his disciples, who were of the Jews, saw this, they were wroth, and they said, "Master, wilt thou that we bid fire to come down from heaven to consume them?"

But Jesus rebuked them, saying, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the son of man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

On another day one of the disciples of Jesus came to him, saying, "We saw one casting out demons in thy name, and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us."

And Jesus answered and said, "Forbid him not, for there is no man that shall do a mighty work in my name, and shall be able to speak evil of me; for he that is not against us is for us."

In like manner Jesus said, "Many shall come from the east and the west, and from

the north and the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God;"

And yet again he said, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; and they shall hear my voice; and they shall be one flock."

Wherefore what God hath cleansed, let none of us make common; for verily God is no respecter of persons;

But in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is indeed a son of God, and is acceptable to him.

Among all the nations hath he poured out the gift of the holy spirit; and he seeketh to make of us all one people, without distinction.

Wherefore let us take heed that we withstand not God; but rather let us yield ourselves that we may become his instruments for the establishment of love and concord among all his children.

Spiritual victories are won by spiritual weapons only; and love is the chief weapon of the spirit.

Therefore let us love one another, until all become worthy of perfect love.

XXX

Let us take heed that we do not our righteousness before men, to be seen of them.

When therefore we give alms, let us not sound a trumpet before us, that we may have glory of men;

But when we give alms, let not the right hand know what the left hand doeth;

That our alms may be in secret; and our Father who seeth in secret will recompense us.

Not that which entereth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which proceedeth out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

For from within, out of the heart of a man, proceed evil thoughts and desires; these are the things that defile a man.

For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; nor anything hidden that shall not be made known.

Therefore whatsoever we have said in the darkness shall be heard in the light; and whatsoever we have whispered in the ear, in the inner chambers, shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Let none imagine evil in his heart against his neighbor.

Let us love not in word only, but in deed and in truth.

Yea, let us be doers of the word, and not hearers only.

And whatsoever we do, let us do it from the heart, as unto the Lord.

If we be inwardly good and true, then shall we be able to see and understand without confusion.

If our hearts be sincere and upright, then shall all creation be unto us a mirror of life, and a book of holy instruction.

If there be joy in the world, surely the man of pure heart shall possess it;

And the blessing of the Lord is upon him in whose spirit is found no guile.

Therefore let us be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Let us put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to resist the wiles of evil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against all the enemies of the spirit.

Wherefore let us take unto ourselves the whole armor of God, that we may be able to endure in an evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Let us stand, therefore, having our loins girt about with the truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking up the shield of faith, wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of evil;

And let us take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

XXXI

Thus saith the Lord: "I will put my law in your minds, and in your hearts will I write it;

"And I will be your God, and ye shall be my people;

"And ye shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know ye the Lord!'

"For ye yourselves shall know me, from the greatest of you unto the least of you."

Behold, the Lord created man at the beginning, and endued him with the strength proper to him;

He made him according to his own image, and upon all flesh he put the fear of himself.

He filled man with the knowledge of wisdom, and showed him good and evil.

He also set his eyes upon the heart of man, to show him the majesty of his works.

He added unto him knowledge, and gave him the law of life for an inheritance.

He made an everlasting covenant with him, and showed him his judgments.

The eye of man saw the majesty of his glory, and his ear heard the glory of his voice.

And the Lord said unto him, "Beware of all unrighteousness; and from all iniquity turn thou away."

So the Lord our God hath set fire and water before us; and we may stretch out our hands to whichsoever we will.

Yea, before us is life and death; and whichsoever we will, it shall be given us.

If we will, it is in our power to keep the commandments,

And to perform faithfulness is within our reach.

Therefore let us not say, It was through the Lord that we fell away.

Neither let us say, It was he that made us to err;

For God hath not commanded any man to do wickedly,

Neither let us say, It was he that made us to err;

O Lord, so teach us to number our days that we may attain unto wisdom;

And, when our earthly labors are ended, may we, bearing our sheaves with us, enter at length into the life everlasting.

XXXII

On that day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

And there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a boat, and sat; and all the multitude stood on the beach.

And he taught them many things in parables, and he said unto them in his teaching:

"Behold, the sower went forth to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden under foot, and the birds of the heavens devoured it.

"And other fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

"And other fell amidst the thorns; and the thorns grew with it, and choked it.

"And other fell into the good ground and grew, and brought forth a hundredfold."

And as he said these things, he cried, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!"

And his disciples asked him what this parable might be.

And he said, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

"Now the parable is this. The seed is the word of God, and those by the way side are they that have heard; then cometh evil, and taketh away the word from their hearts.

"And those on the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no depth of faith, who for a while believe, and in the time of trial fall away.

"And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and the pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

"And that in the good ground, these are such as in honest and good hearts, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience."

Now if we continue in the word of Christ, then shall we become like unto him;

And he that shall endure unto the end shall receive an abundant reward.

Therefore let us be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

Inasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord;

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with perseverance and steadfastness;

For we are partakers of the fellowship of Christ, if we hold fast our boldness and the glorying of our hope firm unto the end.

XXXIII

"Thoughts of peace," saith the Lord, "do I think toward you; and ye shall pray unto me, and I will harken unto you; and ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your hearts."

Therefore will we acquaint ourselves with God, and be at peace.

If we return unto the Almighty, he will build us up, and he will be our defense;

Then shall we delight in the Almighty, and lift up our faces before his glory.

If we draw nigh unto God, he will draw nigh unto us;

Moreover he will hide us under his pinions, and make us to rest in safety.

For the Lord our God will be our hiding place; he will preserve us in all trouble; he will compass us about with songs of deliverance.

Let us therefore commit our ways unto the Lord, and trust in him, and he will order our steps aright.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servants abide in peace, according to thy word; for our eyes have seen thy salvation.

The day is thine, the night also is thine; thou preparest the sun and the light; thou art a shelter for us against the heat and against the storm.

Our souls rest in peace, for thou, Lord, dealest faithfully with us;

Thou dost deliver us from the fear of death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling.

Yea, we rest in thee, O Lord, and wait patiently on thee; for thou dost establish our hearts.

Thou sendest out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead us, and bring us to thy holy presence and to thy power;

For thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;

Therefore will we not fear, although the earth be removed.

If we fill our souls with the thought of God, we shall rest secure under the shadow of the Almighty.

He will cover us with his feathers, and under his wings shall we trust; his truth shall be our shield and buckler;

We shall not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the danger that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in dark-

ness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday;

Because we have made the Lord our refuge, even the Most High for evermore our habitation.

XXXIV

Of a truth we ought not to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts: for there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit;

And there are diversities of ministrations, but the same Lord;

And there are diversities of workings, but the same God, who worketh all things in all.

But unto each one is given the manifestation of the spirit to profit withal.

For to one is given through the spirit the word of wisdom; and to another, the word of knowledge; according to the same spirit;

To another, faith, in the same spirit; and to another, gifts of healings.

And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given unto us,

Let us use them according to the proportion of our faith, nothing regretting and nothing censuring.

For, behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity,

To the end that all may be one, even as Jesus was one with his Father, and that all may be made perfect together in one mind, having the same spirit.

And let us walk worthily of the calling wherewith we were called, with all lowliness and meekness; with longsuffering forbearing one another in love;

Giving diligence to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace;

For there is one body and one spirit, even as also we are called in one hope of our calling;

One Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all;

Until we all attain unto the unity of the faith, unto a full grown man,

Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,

But speaking the truth in love, we may be rooted and builded up and established in our faith,

Increasing in the knowledge of God, and bearing fruit in every good word and work.

If now there be any comfort in Christ, if there be any consolation of love, if there be any fellowship of the spirit, if there be any tender mercies and compassions,

Let us be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, and of one heart,

Doing nothing through faction and vain glory, but in lowliness of mind, each counting the other better than himself;

Not looking each of us to his own interests, but each of us to the welfare of others.

God is one: the center, source, power, mind and plan of all things; all things are through him, and without him can nothing be;

His purposes are broader than space, and they outrun all time; creation is in unity with him, and the universe is an expression of his harmony.

Therefore let us be at one with him, learning his will, and yielding unto him our instant obedience;

In like manner also let us ever be at one with all our fellow-men throughout the whole earth, in the unity of love and helpfulness.

XXXV

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep;

And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters;

And God commanded, and created, and brought forth the light, and the expanse of the firmament, and the greater and lesser luminaries in the heaven, and the dry land, and all the living creatures, and every growing thing upon the face of the earth, and beneath the waters of the sea.

Behold, how manifold are the works of the Lord our God! In wisdom hath he made them all.

He sendeth forth his spirit, and they are created, and he reneweth them in their perfection day by day.

He is the Creator, the Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things that in them are, the eternal Artificer, who never slumbereth nor sleepeth.

Lo, from the beginning he hath set before us in his own being a pattern of work for our instruction and salvation.

XXXVII

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,

That publisheth peace, that proclaimeth glad tidings of salvation!

The spirit of God was in Jesus, the spirit of wisdom and of might;

Yea, the Lord anointed him to preach good tidings to the poor,

To heal the broken-hearted, to give light to them that sat in darkness,

And to guide their feet in the way of peace.

The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but Jesus had not where to lay his head;

Yet he went about doing good, and the people heard him gladly.

He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and he made himself the servant of all, that he might make many rich.

Yea, he came into the world, not to do his own will, but to do the will of his Father who sent him, and to accomplish his work.

His kingdom was not of this world: he came to bear witness unto the truth.

Every one that was of the truth heard his voice, and forsook the way of evil, and turned unto righteousness, and, becoming reconciled unto God, entered into everlasting reward.

He drank the cup of sorrow; he was despised of many, and afflicted;

And, being made perfect through suffering, he became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He finished the work that was given him to do, and, being lifted up, he draweth men unto him.

Being faithful unto death, he hath inherited the crown of life.

XXXVIII

He that loveth life, and would see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil;

Yea, let him refrain from evil, and speak no guile.

Behold, the ships, although they are so great, and are driven by fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the steersman willeth:

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things.

An evil tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; therewith men, made in the image of God, curse one another;

But a holy tongue is a choice instrument of righteousness and praise; therewith we glorify God, and bless and comfort his children.

If any man sin not in word, the same is able to bridle the whole body also; for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh;

Yea, by our words we shall be justified, and by our words we shall be condemned.

A good man, out of the good treasure of the heart, bringeth forth good things;

And an evil man, out of the evil treasure, bringeth forth evil things.

A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger.

The tongue of the wise man useth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools poureth out folly.

The wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness therein is a vexation of the spirit.

A word spoken in season is like apples of gold in baskets of silver; but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

He that refraineth from slander gaineth love;

But he that harpeth upon a matter separateth very friends.

The words of a talebearer are like wounds which eat into the vitals of the body;

A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Evil communications corrupt good morals;

Every idle word that men speak, they shall give an account of in the day of reckoning.

Therefore we pray thee, O Lord, to set a watch upon our mouths, and a guard upon the door of our lips for evermore.

Yea, let the words of our mouths, and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

XXXIX

There is a grievous evil: even riches kept by the owner thereof to his hurt; and riches which perish by evil adventure.

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase; for all things pass away.

Therefore let us not weary ourselves to be rich;

Let us cease from anxious striving, that our eyes come not to rest on that which is naught.

Yea, there are those that make themselves rich, yet have nothing;

And there are those that make themselves poor, yet have great wealth.

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by injustice;

That saith, "I will build me a wide house and spacious chambers;"

And he cutteth out for himself windows, and his house is ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermilion.

Shall we reign because we excel in cedar? Our fathers, did they not do justice and righteousness? Then was it well with them.

Woe unto him that getteth an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high; that he may be delivered from the hand of evil:

He hath devised shame to his house, and hath sinned against his own soul:

For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

Therefore let us not set our hearts upon our goods; and let us not say, "They are sufficient for us:"

For gold hath destroyed many, and hath perverted the hearts of rulers.

Yea, there are those that wax rich by their wariness and pinching, and this is the portion of their reward:

Whereas they say, "We have found rest, and now shall eat continually of our goods,"

Yet they know not what time death shall come upon them, and they shall leave their riches to others, and die.

No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

We can not serve God and mammon.

Let us take heed therefore that we keep ourselves from all covetousness;

For the life of a man doth not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Wherefore let us keep ourselves free from the love of money; for the love of money is a root of all forms of evil;

The desire of possessions hath led many away from the faith, and by it they have pierced themselves through with grievous sorrows.

Let them that are rich in this present world be not puffed up, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us abundantly all things to enjoy.

Let them do good, being rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to sympathize,

According as each hath received a gift, ministering it as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Freely we have received; freely let us give.

XL

Blessed be the Lord, the God of our fathers; for he hath visited us, and wrought redemption for his people;

And he hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been since the world began,

To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

The promise which he gave unto our fathers, to grant that we should serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And thou, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah, art in no wise least among the towns of Judea;

For out of thee hath come forth a leader, who should be the Shepherd of the people.

And thou, Child, wast called the prophet of the Most High;

For thou didst stand before the face of the Lord, to make ready his ways, and to

give health unto his people, through the forgiveness of their sins,

Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the Dayspring from on high hath visited us,

To shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide their feet in the way of peace.

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

For the salvation of God hath shined in our eyes, which he hath prepared before the face of all the people,

A light of revelation unto the nations, and the glory of his people upon the earth.

He was the true light, although the world knew him not: the light that lighteth men through life,

That bringeth them into goodness and peace and joy, and guideth them at length into the way of everlasting beatitude.

Glory be to thee, O Most High, for thy wondrous goodness unto the children of men. For evermore we praise thee, we worship thee, we magnify thee, Father of infinite mercy.

XLI

Then cometh Jesus with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he besought them to tarry with him while he prayed.

And he said unto them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."

And he went forward a little, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

And a second time he prayed, saying, "O my Father, if this can not pass away except I drink it, thy will be done."

And he prayed a third time, saying again the same words; and being in agony, he prayed the more earnestly.

Then came he to the disciples, and said unto them, "The hour is at hand."

And while he yet spake, lo, there came a great multitude, and they took Jesus, and bound him, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate the governor.

And after the passage of many hours, and false accusations and revilings by his enemies, and mockery and buffetings by the

soldiers, Pilate delivered Jesus up to be crucified as a malefactor.

And Jesus went forth bearing the cross for himself.

And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him.

But Jesus, turning unto them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children."

And when they were come to a place called Calvary, they crucified him.

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

And they parted his garments among them, casting lots; and they sat and watched him there.

Then Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, and he said unto his mother, "Behold, thy son!" And to the disciple, "Behold, thy mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home.

And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads.

And in like manner, the chief priests mocking him, said, "He saved others; himself he can not save."

And they that were crucified with him reproached him;

And one of them said, "Dost thou not fear God, seeing that we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man hath done nothing amiss?" And he said, "Jesus, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

And Jesus said unto him, "Verily, I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now finished, said, "I thirst;"

So they put a sponge full of vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head.

Then he cried with a loud voice, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

And having said this, he yielded up his spirit.

And when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous man."

And all the multitudes, when they beheld what was done, returned to the city, smiting their breasts; and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, seeing these things.

So it behooved him to be made perfect through suffering.

Behold, he hath been given for a witness to the people, a leader and commander of the people.

XLII

We bless thee, Lord, who hast given us counsel, who instructest our hearts in the night seasons.

We have set thee always before us; because thou art at our right hand, we shall not be moved.

In our flesh we shall rest in hope; for thou wilt not leave our souls in the grave;

Thou wilt show us the path of life, and wilt lift us out of darkness into the light of an endless day.

For thou didst create us to be immortal, and didst make us in the image of thine own eternity.

In the eyes of the foolish we seem to die; and our departure is accounted to be misery,

And our journeying forth to be our ruin; but we shall be in peace;

For the living and the dead are in thy hands, O God; and there shall no evil touch us.

Our reward is with thee, O Lord, God almighty;

And the care of us is in thy hands, O Eternal.

What shall separate us from thy love, O God?

Shall tribulation or anguish, persecution or famine, nakedness or peril or sword?

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors.

For we are persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from thy love, O God.

Our light affliction, which is but for the moment, worketh for us more and more an eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen; for the things which are seen are temporal;

But at the things which are not seen, for the things which are not seen are eternal.

Therefore we are always of good courage; for thou, Lord, hast not appointed us unto death,

But unto the obtaining of everlasting life; that, whether we wake, or whether we sleep, we shall live together with thee.

For whether we live, we live unto thee, or whether we die, we die unto thee; whether we live therefore, or die, we are thine.

Wherefore, concerning these things, let us not be quickly shaken in our minds, nor yet troubled.

Now may God our Father who loved us, and gave us everlasting hope through grace, comfort our hearts, and establish them in every good word and work for evermore.

XLIII

Behold, O God, we have seen, yet we have not understood, neither have we laid this up in our minds,

That grace and mercy are with thy children, and that thou hast regard unto all that have received life from thee;

For our ignorance hath blinded us, and we know not the mysteries of thy ways,

Neither have we comprehended the wages of godliness, nor judged that there is a reward for blameless souls;

But now we know that we are thy sons, O God, and although it doth not appear what we shall be,

Yet we know that when thou shalt make thyself manifest we shall be like unto thee, for we shall see thee as thou art, O Lord and hidden Comforter.

Wherefore we look for a new heaven and a new earth, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, and where thou, O God, wilt wipe all tears from our eyes.

Being brought out of the darkness of ignorance and the fear of death, we walk as children of the light and heirs of everlasting life.

Moreover, thy spirit, O God, beareth witness with our spirit, that we are thy children, fashioned after the likeness of thine immortality;

And we deem that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which thou wilt reveal toward us; for the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the revealing of thy sons, O God.

Howbeit, that which we sow is not quickened except it die; and what we sow, we sow not the body that is to be, but the mere grain;

God giveth it a body, even as it pleaseth him: and unto each seed a body of its own.

Behold, there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the future life: we vanish as perishable, we appear as imperishable;

We are sown in humility, we arise in glory; we are sown in weakness, we arise in strength;

We are sown a material body, we arise a spiritual body.

The first is of the earth earthy, the second is of heaven;

As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

And when the earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens.

Therefore do we comfort one another with these words, and for evermore rejoice with joy unceasing and full of the hope of glory.

XLIV

In the days of old, Samuel began to minister unto the Lord in the temple, being still a child. And he grew, and increased in favor.

And it came to pass at that time, when Samuel was laid down to sleep in the temple, that the Lord called Samuel.

Yet at first Samuel did not know the Lord, but afterward he knew him, and he said, " Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and the people knew that he should be a prophet of the Lord.

Likewise the child Jesus grew, and became strong, being filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him. And his family went every year to the feast of Passover,

And when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up, after the custom of the feast;

And when they had finished their stay, as they were returning, the boy Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem;

And his parents knew it not; but, supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey;

And they sought for him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance,

And when they found him not, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them and asking them questions;

And all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

And when his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said unto him, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing;"

And Jesus said unto them, "How is it that ye sought me? Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Yet they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

But his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and he was obedient unto them.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with men.

And after many years, when he had become a teacher, they brought little children unto him,

That he might lay his hands upon them and pray;

And his disciples rebuked them that brought the children;

But Jesus said unto them, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

And he took them in his arms, and blessed them;

And he said, "Whosoever receiveth one such little child in my name, receiveth me."

Let us remember our Creator in the days of our youth,

That we may be kept in truth and goodness all the days of our life.

XLV

In the days of old, Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah;

And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord,

And they buried him in the valley of the land of Moab; and no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day.

And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; and there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses.

Likewise Job, a perfect and an upright man, and one that feared God and hated evil, after having been faithful through many afflictions, was gathered to his fathers, being old and full of days;

And he was happy because he endured, and in him we see the design of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity and merciful.

The memory of this righteous man is sweet in every land:

For he delivered the poor that cried, the fatherless also, and him that had none to help;

Justice was to him a robe and a diadem; for he was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame;

And men kept silence for his counsel, and waited for him as for rain.

Now in the days of king Saul, David said unto the messenger, "From whence comest thou?" And he said, "Out of Israel."

And David said unto him, "How went the matter?" And he answered, "Many of the people are fallen in battle":

And David lamented with lamentation over the fallen, saying,

"How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished! They were lovely in their lives, they were swifter than the eagles, they were stronger than the lions, and in their death they were not divided!"

Behold, how precious is the memory of men of great renown! By them the Lord hath wrought much glory:

Such as did exercise influence in their lands, and were famous for their power, giving counsel by their understanding;

Men richly furnished with ability, the strength and glory of their generations;

All these have been honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times.

Yea, they were men of strength and stability, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten.

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore.

For the memorial of virtue is immortal; because it is known with God and with men.

When it is present, men take example of it; and when it is gone they desire it;

And throughout all time, it marcheth crowned in triumph,

Victorious in the strife for prizes that are undefiled;

Therefore will the people tell of their wisdom,

And the congregation will show forth their praise.

XLVI

Let us now praise famous men, even the artificer and workmaster, who put their trust in their hands, becoming wise each in his own work.

Yea, though they be not sought for in the council of the people, nor be exalted in the assembly,

Though they sit not upon the seat of the judge, nor understand the covenant of judgment;

Though they declare not instruction and judgment, and be not found among them that utter dark sayings;

Yet without these shall not a city be inhabited, nor shall men sojourn or walk up and down therein;

For these maintain the fabric of the world, and in the handiwork of their craft is their prayer.

Honor also the physician with the honor due unto him, for the skill of the physician shall lift up his head.

Verily he is a servant of the Lord, for from the Most High cometh healing;

By his skill doth he make supplication unto the Lord, that he may prosper him in giving relief,

And send healing for the maintenance of life, and from him is peace upon the face of the earth.

Let us also praise him who giveth his mind to the law of the Most High, and is occupied in the meditation thereof;

Who seeketh out the wisdom of all the ancients, and who is occupied in prophecies;

Who seeketh out the hidden meaning of the proverbs, and is conversant in the dark sayings of parables.

He shall try the good and evil among men, yea, he will give his heart to resort early to the Lord that made him, and he will pray before the Most High.

Therefore the Lord shall fill him with the spirit of understanding; he shall direct his counsel and knowledge.

Many shall commend his understanding and while the world endureth his memorial shall not pass away.

XLVII

We have heard with our ears, O God; yea, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, even in the days of old,

When they were but few in number, yea, very few, and pilgrims in the land;

How they came from nation to nation, and from many kingdoms to form another people;

For they got not the land in their possession by the sword, neither did their own arm save them;

But thy right hand, O God, and thine arm, did save them, and the light of thy countenance did guide them.

For thou, O Lord, didst bring us into a good land, a land of brooks of water, and of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;

A land of wheat and barley, and of vines, and fig-trees, and pomegranates;

A land wherein we eat bread without scarcity; a land whose stones are iron,

And out of whose hills we dig copper.

Lo, O Lord, thou hast done great things for us, whereof we are glad, and our hearts do exceedingly rejoice.

Wherefore let us keep the statutes and ordinances which the Lord our God hath commanded us,

That it may be well with us, and with those who come after us for many generations.

For when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice,

Yea, happy is the land wherein the Lord doth reign.

XLVIII

As God liveth, the people shall no more pursue every man his brother;

And there shall be heard no more the voice of weeping and crying.

Safety shall be our walls and bulwarks, and our gates praise.

Our officers shall be peace, and our rulers righteousness.

For we shall be redeemed with justice, and established with uprightness.

The abundance of salvation and knowledge and wisdom shall be the strength and stability of our times.

Violence shall no more be heard in the land, nor desolation nor destruction within our borders.

Our eyes shall behold a land that reacheth afar, a place of broad rivers and streams.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

And the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

And we shall beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruninghooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall we learn war any more.

But we shall sit every man under his own vine and under his fig-tree, and none shall make us afraid.

For the people shall abide in peaceable habitations, and in safe dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

Then shall the wilderness become a fruitful field, and justice shall dwell in the wilderness;

Yea, righteousness shall abide in the fruitful field; and the work of righteousness shall be peace;

And the effect of righteousness shall be quietness and confidence.

XLIX

Every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights;

For the earth is his, and he ruleth therein; his ways are ways of blessedness; and his goodness reacheth unto the ends of the world.

The ways of the Almighty are marvelous, and he dealeth bountifully with his children;

Yea, his tender mercy is over all his works, and his faithfulness endureth for ever and ever.

He scattereth his hoarfrost like ashes, he giveth snow like wool;

He casteth forth his ice like morsels; none can stand before his cold.

He sendeth forth his word and melteth them, he bloweth with his breath, and the waters flow.

He sendeth the springs into the rivers which run among the mountains; he watereth the hills from above.

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and the herb for the service of men.

He prepareth the corn for his servants, after his hand hath provided it.

He watereth the ridges thereof abundantly; and maketh it soft with moisture;

He blesseth the springing thereof, and crowneth the year with harvest.

The heavens drop fatness, and the pastures are clothed with flocks.

The valleys also are covered with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Yea, our lot is fallen unto us in pleasant places; surely we have a goodly heritage.

Marvelous are the works of the Lord our God; in wisdom hath he made them all.

Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the height.

Praise him all his angels; praise him all his hosts.

Praise him, ye sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars of light.

Praise him, all ye heavens of heavens; let them praise the name of the Lord;

For he commanded, and they were created; he uttered his voice, and they appeared.

Praise the Lord from the earth; praise him, ye mysterious depths;

Praise him fire and hail, snow and vapors, stormy wind, mountains and all hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,

Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying fowl, rulers of the earth and all people,

Both young men and maidens, old men and children, let them praise the name of the Lord;

For his name is excellent; his glory is above the heavens, and his mercy endureth from generation to generation.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; let all the peoples praise the Lord for evermore;

Let us never cease to sing praises unto the Lord our God; let the whole earth praise the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever!

L

The Lord cometh out of the hiding-place of the north; he rolleth the thick snow-storm before him.

At the breath of his mouth vast clouds are gathered; he uttereth command, and all the rivers are frozen.

He giveth wings to the waters of the air, and sendeth flakes of snow without number.

They all come in order like an army; they float like the ripple of the tide; every one droppeth into the place prepared for it.

They lie deep on the mountain side, and between all the blades of grass in the valley;

The bushes droop, and the fir-trees shiver with their burden; the strong oak groaneth, and the pride of the chestnut is broken.

The sun looketh forth upon a white wilderness, and in the deep tranquillity every sound is heard.

The voice of song hath perished from the woodland; the wild bird seeketh pity at the hand of man.

Who will take the outcast to his home? Who is he that lighteth fire on the hearth that is desolate?

Lord God of sunshine and of storm, be thou our strength when thou sendest winter.

Thou knowest all the paths of the mountains, and providest shelter in the deep places of the rocks; temper thy rough wind to the young lamb.

Light is thine, and darkness is thine; the tempest maketh a way for thy counsel, and prayer goeth up to thee in stillness.

The year, as it rolleth, is filled with thy fullness; and its changes are shadows of thy thought abiding continually.

Thou that movest through things temporal, lead us into the rest which is eternal.

LI

Thus saith the Lord, "Behold, I lay for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation:

"Salvation will I appoint for walls and bulwarks; justice will I make the line, and righteousness the plummet; for here shall my house be builded, and a line stretched forth upon it."

Our hands have laid the foundation of this house; our hands also shall finish it;

For this house shall be builded in wisdom; and by understanding shall it be finished.

And it shall come to pass that people shall come, even the inhabitants of many cities, saying,

"We also will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you."

But wilt thou, O God, in very deed dwell upon the earth?

Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens can not contain thee; how much less this house which we have built:

Yet have thou, O God, respect unto the prayer of thy servants, and unto their supplication,

To harken unto the cry and unto the prayer which thy servants pray before thee this day;

That thine ear may be open toward this house night and day;

Hear thou in thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive.

Thus saith the Lord, "What manner of house will ye build unto me? And where shall be my dwelling-place? For all these things hath my hand made, and so came all these things to be."

Moreover, the Lord saith further: "In man will I dwell, even in him that is of a contrite heart, and that honoreth my word; for I dwell in the high and holy place, and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit."

For we know that we are a temple of God, and the spirit of God dwelleth in us;

Yea, we are a temple of the living God,

Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone;

In whom we are builded together for a habitation of God in the spirit.

Laying aside therefore all malice, and all guile, and all envy, and all evil speaking,

We come unto God, that we may be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifice, acceptable unto God.

Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords:

Who only possesseth eternity, dwelling in light unapproachable, whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and glory and power, for ever and ever.

LII

Moses prayed unto the Lord, saying, "Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all creatures, appoint a man over the congregation, who may go out before them, and who may come in before them, and who may lead them; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd."

And the Lord said, "Take thee a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thy hands upon him; and set him before all the congregation, and give him a charge in their sight."

And Moses did as the Lord commanded him; and called unto him Joshua, and set him before all the congregation, and laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge.

And Moses the servant of the Lord said unto Joshua, in the sight of all the congregation,

"Be strong, and of good courage, for thou shalt go with this people; and the Lord he it is that doth go before thee;

"He will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither will he forsake thee.

"Only be thou strong, and very courageous, that thou mayest observe and do according to all the law;

"Turn not from it to the right hand or the left, that thou mayest prosper wheresoever thou goest."

To us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him;

One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all;

And there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

For the same God is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him.

But how shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed?

And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?

And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall one preach, except he be sent?

How welcome is the messenger that bringeth good news,

That proclaimeth peace, that bringeth glad tidings of good,

That publisheth salvation,

That saith unto the people, "Your God reigneth!"

God giveth us not a spirit of fearfulness, but of power and love and discipline,

To suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God.

For God calleth with a holy calling, according to his purpose and grace.

And we know in whom we have believed, and are persuaded that he is able to keep that which he hath committed unto us.

The Lord give us understanding of his will in all things, even as it was set forth in Christ Jesus,

That we may both keep it and rejoice in it, and so become partakers in the glories of his kingdom for evermore.

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